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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Michael Dolan, Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lexington Park, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, give us light and strength to know Your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by Your wisdom, support us by Your power, for You are God.

You desire justice for all: Enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to Yourself in the bond of love, and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in Your name, may we temper justice with love, so that all Your decisions may be pleasing to You and earn the rewards promised to good and faithful servants. Therefore, teach us to be generous, to serve You as You deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and ask for no reward except that of knowing that we are doing Your holy will. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GREEN of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 2 of rule I, it is the responsibility of the Speaker to preserve order and decorum in the proceedings of the House. As stated on page 330 of the House Rules and Manual, this responsibility requires that the Chair disallow the use of an exhibit that tends to degrade decorum. Thus, the Speakers previously have disallowed the introduction of a person on the floor as a guest of the House as an "exhibit."

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule I, the Chair reiterates the ruling of June 11, 2003, that it is inappropriate to use Pages of the House as part of a visual exhibit during debate. Although Members may enlist the assistance of Pages to manage the placement of exhibits on easels, it is not appropriate to use Pages as though part of an exhibit or otherwise include them in an exhibit.

The Chair also will continue to scrutinize the number of charts and other visual exhibits used simultaneously during the debate for any tendency to impair decorum.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

### FREE DR. OSCAR BISCET

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 18 the Cuban Government began a massive crackdown on the best, the brightest, and the most courageous in Cuba. Some 75 journalists and human rights activists were arrested and subjected to kangaroo trials and now have gotten prison terms from 6 to 28 years.

Last week Amnesty International called it the most severe crackdown on dissidents since the year following the Cuban revolution.

Sadly, these brave Cubans join 400 other political prisoners who are languishing in Castro's gulags. Their only crime is their love of freedom.

Among those unjustly imprisoned, is Dr. Oscar Biscet, a pro-life Afro-Cuban who has been a leader in the human rights movement for years. Although he was recently released, Mr. Speaker, from a 3-year term, he was rearrested, and now has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for organizing a human rights meeting.

His wife, Elsa Morejon, reports that Dr. Biscet is kept in a 6 by 3 punishment cell. They have been refused any visits and any kind of parcels of food or medicines. On May 28 Dr. Biscet wrote, "I am innocent of the charges of which I have been condemned. A true man cannot betray himself, so I only appeal to the living God and pray to our Lord, as He is not neutral and never abandons his flock."

According to his wife, Dr. Biscet's only crime is trying to observe and uphold the universal declaration on

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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